



THE ST. BRENDAN SENTINEL

Friday, March 28, 2008 – Vol. 1 – No. 1 – 1.00 Itrì

SOS Schivâ updates National Website

In her own words: „If you will go check out the national website, you will see that the severely out-of-date HTML editions of the Constitution, Federal Code, Executive Orders and Standing Orders have been replaced by PDF versions, fully updated and vetted by myself personally. The HTML versions will come back online once cxhn. Ereufigheu has updated them properly.”

„By the way, can I bring up the topic that I **HATE typo3 with a passion coupled with a fury coupled with great vengeance?!?** It is the most slow, cumbersome, inflexible content management system I have ever seen. I look forward, once the new Government names an immigration minister, to get together with him* to discuss how we are going to make talossa.com usable once more,” she added.

New Talossan Tabloid out

You're looking at it: the first issue of The St. Brendan Sentinel, *which, from now on, will be at your favourite newspaper stand approximately every Friday. But there's already QI and Liberançeu, you may think to yourself (and you may shake your head in disbelief), and there's not much to report. „Don't be so pessimistic”, chuckles our Editor-in-Chief, „if there'll be no news we'll invent news. You won't see the difference. Now this was a joke. A joke!”*

A provincial holiday for Cézembre

As the provinces of the Republic of Talossa are going through a revival, apparently it has become an ambition of their citizens to declare local holidays. Cézembre is discussing to make St. Brendans Day (May 16) its provincial day of celebration. The discussion took an interesting turn when two citizens of the province discovered that May 16 has some particular meaning in their past or present family life. Nationwidely reknown reporter Crovâ suspected with glee that an interesting home story may be hidden behind this dry fact, but couldn't evoke substantial comments out of said abovementioned two citizens yet.

A bear has lost his spectacles

When the Florencian activist D. Rôibeardét proposed the introduction of a Founder's Day in his home province, a certain senior citizen of the Republic, a retired politician, was overheard exclaiming „Flounders? I love fish!” Some experts may not know what to make of this comment, but the expert of your own *St. Brendan Sentinel* says, it may be a sure sign of temporary underemployment. A sucessful election campaign in May may cure this temporary disease.

In other news

Presently the sun is shining in the German city of Frankfurt. It is around noon on a Friday, we are hungry, and we are waiting for the weekend to begin.



THE ST. BRENDAN SENTINEL

Cézembre, Republic of Talossa - established in 2008 - Editor: D. N. Vercáriâ

Tuesday, April 1, 2008 – Vol. 1 – No. 2 – 1.00 Itrì

Valcádac'h dethrones King John 1:0

At the Micromonarchic Olympics in Puerto Clarito, a nano-nation that resides on the eastern part of the edge of a knife that lies near the mouth of the river Casiquiare, Gödafriëu Valcádac'h (Republic of Talossa) ascended a throne short before his rival King John I (Kingdom of Talossa) did so, too. „I think it was the advantage of the early bird,” said the winner, „I ascended the throne at sunrise.“ Amateur geographers and observers like to point out that Valcádac'h might be living on a longitude that lies a tick east of John I's palace, hence the advantage that the winner mentioned. No comment has been heard from the latter, reportedly a professional monarch. Will he call for a referee's decision?

Media Mogul Murdoch buys QI

„No, he doesn't,” says Editor Schivâ, „but he could.“ And she adds with a wink and a smile: „If he actually had enough money to buy it.“

Kane dal Navâ is coming out

Yes, he's coming out, and he's not coming out of a closet, he's stepping out of a cage. „I'm a tiger,” he rawrs, and he certainly means what he's rawring. „He'll learn to live with it,” grumbles the Sentinel's editor Vercáriâ, who apparently learned to live with a similar furry condition quite a while ago. Now experts wonder who will be coming out next, and, possibly a lot more interesting, as what.

This rumour is simply wrong

Spokesmen and -women of President Anglatzarâ like to declare, that the President did not buy a factory, in which in a secret lab a certain Scandinavian kind of fermented herring is supposed to be produced. In fact, so the spokespersons, our President bought a shut-down lavender distillery, in which he wants to distill whisky and science fiction for the Talossan Whisky and Science Fiction Society.

ZRT annexes North Talossa

„Yes, we will,” says the ZRT's own chief magician Davïu Rôibeardét, „by means of the Schivâ doctrine, the amended Constitution and a heavy dose of wishful thinking. Regipäts Talossán, begone!” The crowd is cheering in amazement. Or is it amusement? More next, under the dome of the big tent of the *Zirkus der Republik Talossa*.

In other news

During last weekend, our soon-to-be ex-Cultural Minister Ián Txaghl has constructed a tiny little new grammatical case in his linguistic workshop. Yet he doesn't know what to use it for, but he swears it's a promising case. Says Txec Dal Már: „That's exciting news!”



New Ministers appointed

Here's the lineup of the crew of Seneschál Börnatfighlheu:

Gödafríeu Vacadác'h is Talossa's Minister of Immigration

Txec Danihél dal Már is Talossa's Minister of Culture

Eiric S. Börnatfighlheu is Talossa's Minister of Foreign Affairs

Inxheneu Crovâ is Talossa's Minister of Finance

Txec Ereufighleu is Talossa's Minister of Information

In the words of our President: „Do your work for the greater good of us all.“

Chief Justice Verbotten arrives at new Court building...

... and evidently he's enthralled to see that everything he needs is in place: „So here's the new chamber. I see the torture equipme.....errrr.....testimonial retrieval equipment made the trip safely.“ - „*ahem* *cough*“, is the witty reply of no one lesser than his colleague, Justice dal Navâ. Says a commentor: „Now the Republic can sleep safely again, and this includes our esteemed honourable Court Justices.

Tourism in Cézembre increases...

... and apparently the flag of our noble province vanished from the flagpole. Visitors from the Great Southern Province find it amusing. „Er... hate to bother you Eurosnobs, but it seems that someone let the registration on www.cezembre.org expire,“ Miestrâ Schivâ is hinting and a smirking Kane dal Navâ, incidentally omnipresent in this issue of The St. Brendan Sentinel, assists her: „HA! HA! In your face, Cezzers!“ - „You can't blame this omnipresence on him,“ says our Editor-in-Chief in defence of the good man.

Blank space discovered in the Sentinel

Yes, unfortunately. We didn't know how to fill this page completey. Mind to send us your rants or articles for one of the coming issues? You do? What, you don't? You won't, will you? You're so sorry? Damn.

„We found it on the flip side“

... the Blank Space Fairies are giggling. Those nasty, mischievous creatures.

This will not happen again

Groan. In our next issue we'll be back to the one-page-format.



THE ST. BRENDAN SENTINEL

Cézembre, Republic of Talossa - established in 2008 - Editor: D. N. Vercáriâ

Friday, April 18, 2008 – Vol. 1 – No. 3 – 1.00 Itrì

Kingdom going to lose its territory?

One of the significant decisions of the 6th CoD has been the preparation of a constitutional amendment according to which it would be up to the Parliament and the people of our Republic to determine the jurisdiction of the Republic over the historic territory of the Talossan nation. The aforementioned amendment sailed through in a referendum, so now the 7th CoD followed the provisions of our amended Constitution and discussed bill 7RC2, proudly entitled 'The Northern Provinces Reclamation Bill'.

One can't say that the proposal (to claim the whole historic Talossan territory, to reunite the territory of the province Florenciâ and to make all old provinces with the dictatorial names a yet unused territory named after Bill Cooper) evoked a fit of screaming patriotism, but anyway: 2 përs, 2 abstentions and one absent Deputy made it happen that the project of claiming the whole historic territory of Talossa all ours has reached the next stage.

The Tuischac'h took the bill to the office of the President, saying „I request that you assent to enact 7RC2 'The Northern Provinces Reclamation Bill' into law,” and the President replied „I hereby give my Presidential assent to 7RC2 and sign it into law. The Northern provinces have been reclaimed.”

This statement has been a bit premature, as a constitutional provision requires that territorial and provincial issues have to be taken to a referendum. Which, following an undisputed suggestion of the SoS, will be held along with the upcoming Presidential election in May.

For a variety of theoretical aspects the referendum could become an interesting event, theoreticians say. For instance, we may find out how representative our representative democracy is for real: If the voting of our Deputies really maps the opinion of the broad populace, the result of the referendum must be as undecided as the result of the voting in the CoD, according to an egghead who doesn't want to see his name printed in this context.

Yet another anonymous egghead is predicting that the referendum might spice up the somewhat dry, ceremonial atmosphere of the upcoming Presidentials, as the candidates may take different stands in the issue of claiming the entire historic territory of Talossa exclusively for the Republic. So a referendum that is held during the Presidentials may have an unpredictable impact on said event.

In other news

Yet another bill sailed through: 7RC1, according to which the governmental forums shall be given names in el glhetg naziunal.



Sentinel quiz! Dare something worthy and win a rare music CD!

Yes, it's true, your favourite tabloid offers you the opportunity to win an almost unique, „handmade“ music CD which features roughly twenty minutes of music of the German (and Talossan!) artist EISPETZ (which is a poetic way of saying polar bear – we bet now you guess whose music is on the CD). But this is not what you'll have to guess (or to know) to win the prize! The questions are:

1. who was the first head of the state of the Republic of Talossa, ever?
2. who was the second Seneschál of the Republic of Talossa?
3. who was the third Túischac'h of the Chamber of Deputies?
4. is it true that the President of the Republic can dissolve said chamber at whim?
5. how many languages are officially spoken in the Republic of Talossa?

Send your replies to our quiz questions to the Sentinel before Sunday, April 27. Send them by email to HammDieter@web.de, using the topic headline „SENTINEL QUIZ“. Everyone who's Talossan, a Friend of the Republic of Talossa, a registered member of MNO, a micronationalist of any feather and not the owner of said email addy can try to pick the prey. The prize will be assigned by lot if there is more than one possible winner. The winner of the rare item will have to reveal her or his snail mail address, so that we can deliver the prize by snail mail.



Backside artwork of the prize.



THE ST. BRENDAN SENTINEL

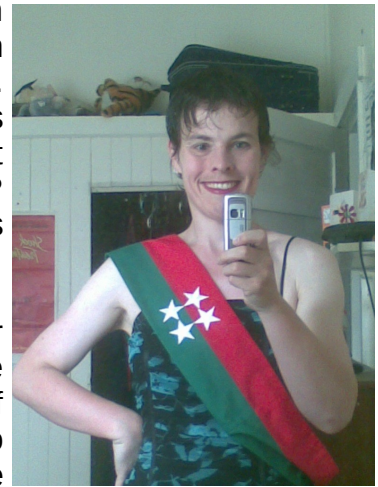
Cézembre, Republic of Talossa - established in 2008 - Editor: D. N. Vercária

Sunday, December 26, 2010 - No. 4 - 1.00 Itri

President Shivâ's Anniversary Speech

Estimats Talossâes, amici, és oðreux adesten!

It is my honour, joy, privilege and pleasure to present an address to the Republic and to the broader Talossan nation on this, the 31st anniversary of the founding of our "imagiNation". Please forgive the garbagy quality of the photo above - it was the best I could do with the equipment I had to hand. But is that not, after all, precisely what the spirit of Talossa is all about? Building a culture, a nation, a language, a tradition, out of bits and pieces that you find lying around the place?



I must say, amici és cüncitaxhiêns, that I feel much, much better about our nation than I did twelve months ago, when the Republic seemed to be sinking into a sea of apathy. This was of course why I felt motivated - despite my better judgement - to firstly initiate the Constitutional Convention process, to change our means of decision making to involve more Talossans and less reliance on a self-appointed group of professional politicians; and, secondly, to stand for the office of Prüm Citaxhiên, President of the Republic, so that I could put my vision for what that new machinery could do into operation. It's certainly been an entertaining going on seven months. Only history will tell whether it was a useful one.

Prüm Citaxhiên literally translates as "First Citizen". To some degree, that signifies "first in dignity among equals" - the person with whom the buck (or the itri) stops, the person who - for a period of one calendar year - is entrusted by the citizens with, and of their own free will takes on, the burden of leadership of the Republican Talossans. Let's explore "leadership". This does not mean "dictatorship". This does not mean "final arbiter of what goes". We have had enough of monarchy and of personality cults in our Republic. But "leadership", as I personally understand it, means, first and foremost, vision; and secondly, the ability to mobilise others in pursuit of that vision. And this is what I have pursued in my term of office - with what success, you may argue amongst yourselves.

To some degree, this second part of the equation means being able to pick "people for jobs". A leader who tries to do everything themselves is not only setting themselves up for burnout, but is showing a deplorable lack of trust in the people they're trying to lead. That's the mindset of the dictator. So - part of my vision for this Republic is quite similar to that of that martyr in the cause of a different Republic, Vol. Bobby Sands MP, who said: "Everyone, Republican or otherwise, has their own particular part to play. No part is too great or too small; no one is too old or too young to do something." So, if I have a mission statement as (temporary) leader of the Republic, it is: to find some way in which every Talossan can participate and do their part in building our nation.

To some degree, the constitutional revisions (and more of them yet to come?) have been part of that plan. The institution of the Senäts was intended to stem one continuous problem in our experience - the loss of the wiser, experienced, veteran Talossans to our decision-making problems as they tire of elected politics. In the monarchical days, this was accomplished by "old buddies of the King" having more of a say than average citizens - but we have had to evolve beyond that model. Sure, it's had its teething problems. But it has had those problems not because of apathy, but because the Senators care extremely strongly about the issues. No meaningless talking shop, no retirement home, this. This is the beating heart of our Republican Talossan tradition, and I look forward to it reconvening in the New Year.

Under the new constitution, also, the President of the Republic gets the right to decide the Seneschál - the person who, on a day-to-day basis, runs the Government of the Republic. And I think I made a damn fine choice when I got the job. I am certainly not of total agreement with the ideas being put forward by Carlüs Xherálsëfiglheu, but he is doing something. If there is to be a motto for my Presidency, let it be: something is always better than nothing. The problems of activity are always to be preferred to the problems of apathy.

But the job is not nearly done. As long as any Talossan thinks that there is no place for their vision, their ideas, their energy, their creativity in the Republic as it is, we are all diminished and our collective heart beats that little bit more slowly. We need a Cultural Renaissance to go with the political streamlining which has brought things back into action. We need the political system to make decisions, and to form a "scaffolding", a structure, for our nation. A nation without a political system is quite simply not a nation - even the unrecognized nations of the indigenous peoples of the earth have some way in which collective decisions can be made.

To some degree, I entirely sympathise with the growing movement for provincial autonomy, precisely because it is (as I see it) a cultural movement rather than a political movement. The Governor of the province of Florenciâ, s:reu Rôibeardët, deserves some kind of medal for his quixotic solo effort to build a Florenciân culture from scratch. (And certainly, let us rejig the provincial assignment code quickly so he gets some companions!) We should all be doing this. I don't approve of the political consequences of federalism, as I've said elsewhere, but anything which encourages groups of Talossans or individuals to come up with new, interesting, and fun ways of being Talossan is to be 100% approved and encouraged.

One area where we lack, though, is in documentation of our experience as Talossans. Amici és cüncitaxhiêns, I refer to newspapers and history. I have made a conscious decision to step away from the press and the history book because that should not be the job of a leader - not while that leader is in active service, anyway. History is the final arbiter of success or failure, and you can't be creating the artwork and then judging the competition in which it was entered. But we do need some regular means of reflection on who we are, why we're doing this, are our leaders doing their job right. We need a competitive free press. So I make this promise to the nation: if any Talossan starts a newspaper, I will revive Qator Itrîns to compete with it. Only through contradiction is progress possible; only through an organised exchange of views (not a boring Pravda / Støtanneu "official narrative") can a democratic Republic such as ours truly take stock of where it is going.

And - perhaps crucially - a press might be the only way to enable new citizens, or those interested in our Republic, to truly understand what's going on. Our website is - sadly - not

very user-friendly; and any newcomer reading through all these forum threads would surely put the Aspirin industry into super-profit for the year. A free and competitive press does not simply equal a historical record, or a way to clarify debates; it represents a way in for new citizens. I'll do my part if at least one other Talossan press baron does theirs.

Activity has its problems - headbutting, emotional upsets, gridlocks as the big beasts of our body politic compete against one another in feats of rhetorical strength. But, again, I prefer the problems of activity to the problems of apathy. Activity may be fever or disorder, but apathy is death. We're getting somewhere.

Sã vivádra ár naziun amadâ, és ár Republicâ!

We have a Dude!

It's not the newest of all news, but for the first time in quite a couple of months and even years Cézembre elected a new provincial head honcho, better known as „*the Dude*“ in this neck of the world: It's C. Carlüs Xheráltsëfiglheu, well known and respected as the Seneschál of the Republic. Apparently it is his intention to reanimate our Province, which, once the culturally proudest, most populated and most active of all provinces of the Republic, had become rather inactive recently, producing anything but some in-jokes about „cat-eating“, whatever this may be.

Xheráltsëfiglheu, who – coincidentally – is celebrating his birthday today, already kickstarted some cultural activity, by introducing the game of *Mornington Crescent*, a strange surreal intellectual fun that attracted some attention even from abroad. Furthermore, he seems to try to obey the traditional Cézembrean circle of lawsmithing, alas, yet the Cézembreans seemed to ignore this attempt.

A short while ago Xheráltsëfiglheu tried to get re-assigned to the province of Florenciâ, which, in spite of a population of only one, has been more active and therefore more attractive than Cézembre recently, but the Cort dismissed this request. So the Cézembreans can call themselves lucky for not losing an activist, while the old unresolved issue of the so-called provincial re-assignment is rearing up strongly in our national politics.

The Return of the Giant Hogweed (Pt. 1)

... is a slightly satirical song about an ecological sin that was committed by European aristocrats several centuries ago, bringing an invincible venomous „neophyte“ plant to the old continent, which since then couldn't be eradicated any more: *Heracleum Mantegazziani*, also known as the Giant Hogweed.

We're using this as an only loosely related metaphorical headline for an issue that had kind of been hibernating somewhere deep in the soil of the short long history of our Republic, before it came back strongly in the wake of the adoption of our second Constitution, and following proposed amendments to this.

In fact we don't want to compare a legitimate political issue to a pest plant, nor is it our intention to give any of the involved parties the bad name of a, pant!!! beware, aristocrat. All we may want to insinuate is that some issues can't be put to a rest just by a mutual agreement of keeping silent on the issue.

And therefore it is a good thing that after C. C. Xherátsëfiglheu's dismissed petition for a provincial reassignment – that's what we're talking about here – the metaphorical Giant Hogweed kept returning on and off.

Whereever we'll be going in this issue, we eventually need to find a solution that is accepted by all citizens, and, truth be told, this solution will not simply be a small rejig of the current assignment list. Even if we assume that giving the non-resident Talossans more freedom of choice is not the way, we would need a robust mechanism that has the built-in ability to keep up a certain statistical balance between the population of the provinces without more input from our politicians; but the ongoing debate has shown that there is at least a significant minority of Talossans who disagree on the suggested eternal value and advantage of the so-called geographical assignment.

Whereever we'll be going in the oncoming debate, or if the debate, under the assumption that it's too hot to handle, will be swept under the carpet for one more stretch of time, if we don't find a viable compromise that deserves to be called a compromise, the Giant Hogweed will return again and again, just like in the abovementioned song that some of you may not know or remember.

The Return of the Giant Hogweed (Pt. 2)

No, actually this article isn't about a return of something that has been deeply rooted in the grounds of our history. It's the editorial of this issue of the *St. Brendan Sentinel*, which might be the result of a momentary whim of the Editor.

Although it may be a momentary whim, it is also a „yes“ to some of the words of our President, which at least came in handy for filling a whole new restart issue of the Sentinel. She said that we're desperately missing an active press, which is preserving moments and snapshots of our ongoing history in drops of amber. I can't promise that I'll be issuing new issues of the Sentinel in a monthly or even weekly discipline and drill, at least not singlehandedly.

But I think it is important, even crucial for the well-being, the prosperity of the Talossan society to keep these private, unsupported cultural initiatives rolling. And this I will try to do a bit more often than before. That's a promise. If you want to join this endeavour by contributing articles, you're most welcome.

And now it's up to another year of Talossanity.
Long live the Republic!

D. N. V.
Editor

(on the picture above at a very young age – apparently I was born to become an orator)





THE ST. BRENDAN SENTINEL

Cézembre, Republic of Talossa - established in 2008 - Editor: D. N. Vercária

Thursday, January 6, 2011 - No. 5 - 1.00 Itrì

Happy New Year 2011, Talossans!



A brandnew year has just begun, so we take the chance to start a little survey, asking some prominent Citizens of the Republic: What do you think 2011 is going to bring us? What would you wish for our country in 2011? What are you planning to do in 2011, as a Talossan? Here are the replies that we've got so far, more or less in the order in which they came rushing in:

2011 - the year we put a man on the moon?

Jum Txec: *2011 will hopefully bring some new members to the Talossan community, and a more active presence among the forums. I've seen how brilliant it is when conversation is in full swing, and it's a shame when it goes quiet. I would wish the Talossan republic the very best in sustaining what we already have, and growing upon it. I hope that the political system will bring us something we can show off to the rest of the world, in how we can perform as a democracy. My personal journey for this year, as a Talossan, will be my newspaper for Talossan citizens, which I hope will prove useful and entertaining.*

Xhorxh Asmoûr: (What do you think 2011 is going to bring us?) *Peace and perhaps reunification.* (What would you wish for our country in 2011?) *Same.* (What are you planning to do in 2011, as a Talossan?) *Get more citizens and make our citizens more active.*

E. S. Börnatfiglheu: *Well, I'm not sure how prominent I am, but here is my response. I think that 2011 is going to see a wellspring of activity from unexpected places in*

unexpected forms. Though politically we will continue to muddle forth, I see some form of flux to hit the Republic in the coming year. (What would you wish for our country in 2011?) Aside from new citizens to help us freshen some things up? Well, I would wish a continued goodwill and the first steps towards surrendering those things in our past that do us no good. I plan on continuing work with the CSLT, particularly beginning to develop it as a centre of thinking on micronationalism and Talossan culture. We're always looking for fellows.

Gödafrīeu Valcádac'h: *My plans for Talossa in 2011 will probably be limited to Oracla March Madness 2011, to be held in March and April. Otherwise, you guys will not be seeing me on Witt for the time being: I've needed a break from Talossa, and I expect Talossa needed a break from my obsessive streak over reunification. Besides, the politics of that situation infuriate me to no end (both sides are at fault) though the practical aspect of the Kingdom being the chief focus of Ben's anger and vindictiveness instead of the Republic makes me glad to an extent the split goes on.*

I suppose Ben will (hopefully) remain alive and well for at least another forty-to-fifty years, at point during this time yielding to the truth of his principal role in causing the split in the first place. Hence, our split will have to continue.

If all goes well, I'll be starting on a massive history of Talossa (at least my re-telling). But if I have any goal of Talossa done this year, it would have to be visiting Milwaukee this summer. We shall see if that happens...

I guess I need to visit Witt again.

Txec Danihèl Dál Màr: *My greatest wish for Talossa in 2011 is more citizens. We need some fresh meat around here. This will bring in, hopefully, some more creative souls and help develop our culture. As far as my personal activity, we'll have to see what happens when I quit workin 80 hours a week outside of my Senatorial duties.*

Ián Anglatzarâ: *(What do you think 2011 is going to bring us?) No idea. I'm afraid I think we'll just hobble on on our crutches. (What would you wish for our country in 2011?) Lots of more citizens and a working Senate. (What are you planning to do in 2011, as a Talossan?) The way I feel now, nothing at all.*

Dav Rôibeardêt: *'What do you think 2011 is going to bring us?' Two ones, one two and a zero. 'What would you wish for our country in 2011?' Let's put a man on the moon. And if*

we can't do that...I'll settle for a man in the Territory. 'What are you planning to do in 2011, as a Talossan?' Rob a bank. No, I'm just kidding. I don't have the manpower to rob a bank. I don't know...something interesting, no doubt. I guess we'll have to wait and see.

Miestrâ Schivâ: *(What do you think 2011 is going to bring us?) If I've learned one thing in my life, it's that the future is always surprising. If you can predict the future, it will almost by definition be a disappointment. (What would you wish for our country in 2011?) The rebirth of organised political debate, a competitive press, and a consequent revamping of our web presence, to ATTRACT NEW CITIZENS. That last is the most vital thing that can be imagined. (What are you planning to do in 2011, as a Talossan?) Serve out another five months as President of the Republic... and then we'll see.*

Garth Spencer: *2011 is going to bring us more violent weather, ecological bad news, and economic frights, insults, and disappointments.*

I would like to promote the Republic of Talossa to people who are thinking of emigrating from Canada and the United States.

As a Talossan, I am planning to translate the Principia Discordia or the Tao Teh Ching into Talossan, although I never did finish with the Gospel of Thomas.

Or should I work with an engineering textbook?

We like to thank all the good citizens who cared to reply to our survey. Presently our pundits are still on their New Year's vacation, so we have to refrain from writing a heavy weighted comment on the many replies that we've got. Which is possibly the best we can do.

Just two annotations: Many of us seem to be wishing for more immigrants to join us, so let's hope for a miracle that will bring along a Talossan revival. And annotation number two: If S:reu Valcádac'h has ever been alone in his desire for serious attempts to regain the Talossan unity, he's not alone any more – S:reu Asmour seems to share this sentiment. So probably – and hopefully – these voices will be heard more often in the concert of our republican diversity.



--- SENTINEL NEWSFLASH ---

Politbureau Regime to come?

2011-01-06 It was a surprise that took nobody by surprise: After a short angry, absurd argument about the price of a human life, Dp. Dav Rôibeardét immediately resigned from his seat in the Chamber of Deputies and renounced his citizenship. So after the Senate now the CoD was inquorate, too, and as President Schivâ will go on tour with her band next week, the Republic seemed to be on the verge of losing its entire government. But thanks to a constitutional clause (Const. II, 5.4 for the legal sticklers amongst our readers) the Republic will not be left headless: A so-called Politbureau of three leading politicians – Senator Ián Anglatzarâ, Tuischac'h Xhorxh Asmoûr, Seneschál C. Carlüs Xheráltsëfiglheu – will fill the possible power gap until at least one Chamber of Parliament is quorate again so that a President pro tempore can be elected. But possibly President Schivâ will successfully herd up a quorate Senate and a new Mençéi before she is going on leave, so that we won't have to rely on the Politbureau solution. Anyway the defunct CoD has been dissolved by the President in the mean time, so we may see CoD elections any time soon.

More News

- Jum Txec, who became a Citizen of the Republic only a few weeks ago, announced the foundation of a new „partisan press“ (Schivâ) paper by name of CITAXHIËN. As the Republic has run short of constantly published press projects over the years, the citizenry is awaiting CITAXHIËN with baited breath, literally.
- Juan José Ventura from El Salvador is our newest prospective citizen. Unlike quite a bunch of other applicants who passed us by recently, he really seems to be interested in diving into the daily life of the Republic, so here's hope that he will stay with us. *Consiguiente, una otra vez: ¡Bienvenido, Juan!*
- And now we'll hurry to bring this issue of *The Sentinel* to the newsstands of the Republic, before all our news are outdated and boring the audience stiff.



THE ST. BRENDAN SENTINEL

Cézembre, Republic of Talossa - established in 2008 - Editor: D. N. Vercária

February 4, 2011 – No. 6 – 1.00 Itrì

13th Chamber of Deputies ready to go

To all of those who, with baited breath, have been waiting for a peaceful, sleepy, worthy end of the Republic of Talossa coming one of these days, here's news for you: Our Republic may have seen more exciting days, but still 15 of 18 citizens cared to vote in an allegedly uncontested CoD election. That's an overall turnout of roughly 83 per cent, a turnout that larger nations can only dream of, and by the way, an increase in the attendance level, as one election ago only 13 citizens voted.

Still we've only seen three candidates running for five seats, but boy, no-one can say that they didn't fight for the support of the voters. Especially C. Carlüs Xherálsëfiglheu, Seneschál of the 12th CoD, appeared to be the owner of a hidden well of new, occasionally slightly controversial ideas, and as he's been the most active and productive Seneschál in a row of more sleepy legislative periods, this was rewarded with the almost Stalinist amount of 93 per cent of supporting votes.

But one can't say that the 80 per cent that first time runner Jum Txec brought home are the sign of a devastating defeat of the oppositional political camp that he tried to represent. And candidate Xhorxh Asmoûr's grumpy address to the two voters who voted against him is certainly only a theatrical exaggeration, whereas indeed one of these voters seemed to have cast an individual message in a bottle to Xhorxh, who nonetheless gained the roaring support of 86 per cent of the voting citizens.

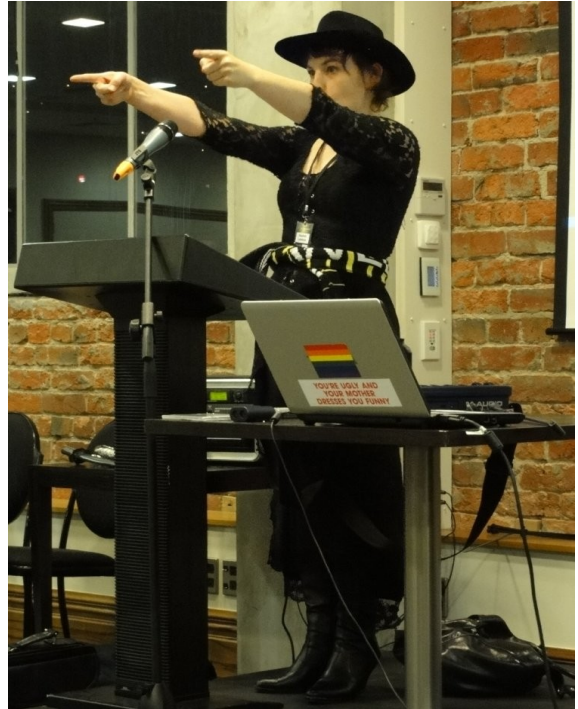
So now we're waiting for our President, who just returned from a concert trip through the wilderness of a truly southern region of Planet Earth. Will she appoint the winner of this election the next Seneschál of the Talossan Republic? And shall we therefore see how all his political promises will come true, after hard struggles with our cantankerous, reform-resistant, nonetheless beloved Senators?

The truly great message of this election is that still more than just the „visible“ active citizens seem to care about what will become of our nationette. So, with a sounding tone of optimism (and Republican Talossan patriotism), repeat after me: Long live the Republic!

How to avoid a rabid societal dissent

And now our President (on the picture below) is back from her big rock'n'roll tour across the southern island of New Zealand, and she surely left a track of burning venues and, even more likely, flaming hearts behind her. This may have inspired her to give our incoming government the following advice: „I reckon that Talossa should institute the old English common law offence of being a common scold, with the traditional punishment, although make it clear that it doesn't only apply to womenfolk. I've always thought that Talossa really needs some equivalent of saying 'You Lose Points For Being a Jerk'“.

The necessity of this kind of advice seems to be proven by the immediate response of some well-known Talossan troublemakers. „Jeez, Daph, that would net me prison time eventually,“ a certain Sir Tamorán, better known as the first President of the Republic, Kane Gruber, exclaims, and his once-upon-the-time



successor, D. N. Vercáriâ, tries to hide his respective concerns behind the slightly incomprehensible remark that „as long as this law doesn't apply to bears, it is fine with me.“

But President Schivâ isn't willing to let anyone sneak away in a that easy fashion. „No, I envisage the penalty for bears being anti-social should be an enforced term of six months wearing a humiliating hat and riding a little tricycle in a circus somewhere,“ she's sneering at the self-proclaimed Ursologist Vercáriâ, whose reply, according to which „bears, unlike monkeys, can even ride motorbikes,“ isn't impressing Sir Tamorán: „Tigers, on the other hand, prefer public transportation. Subways and the like.“

And on we go to the next exciting issue that is moving Talossa in these days.

The possible advantage of a controlled failure

Twenty-five years ago, in the Federal Republic of (West) Germany of yore, the state-run Federal Railways tried to improve their service with heated switches, a lot of personnel to light up the fire of the heated switches in cold winter nights and more of such senseless

goodies; there have been redundant locomotives and more redundant rolling stock, so that, if a locomotive failed to work or a waggon failed to roll, these vehicles could be replaced immediately; and of course everything got varnished and revarnished and lubricated and derusted and what not on and off, and there were additional locomotive drivers and yardmasters waiting to replace locomotive drivers and yardmasters that coincidentally got sick without a warning, as it often happens.

Of course this was some kind of a delusional quasi-socialist waste of public money, which had to stop once our clever leaders realised that free enterprise will improve everything, including railway services. Nowadays German Railways operate only exactly the number of rolling stock items that are needed to keep up the scheduled services, with exactly the number of locomotive drivers and yardmasters that are needed for this. If a locomotive fails to work, or its driver is getting sick without a warning and beyond any schedulable measure, these things happen, and there are nicely dressed up, good looking service people to explain why trains have to be cancelled. If you don't like it this way, there are nifty hotline numbers that you can call to deliver your complaints to helpless helpdesk people.

This system is cheaper in many respects, and it is teaching us to stand relaxed in all weather, literally, even if it's raining cats and dogs. Statistically, a certain tolerance for failure is making a system more effective, at least statistically, and here comes the switch to the argumentative rail that I'm intending to get on, because in spite of my sarcastic tone there is some wisdom to be found in the aforementioned story.

Several years ago, when Talossa joined the strange world of the internet, the question arose how to protect our nationette from fake or other shady immigrants who possibly intended to do evil things. So an immigration procedure that included the requirement of a strong proof of identity, viz., the presentation of copies of documents like passports, drivers licenses or some such was implemented, and it never happened that our country was intruded by, erm, intruders. But times changed and it happened that at least the Republic of Talossa ran dry of a steady stream of applicants for the citizenship, unlike our concurrent sibling, the Kingdom of John I of Talossa. There is a sneaking suspicion going around, that our, the Republic's immigration checks, have become somewhat disencouraging in an internet of social networks like FaceBook et al., where a membership is only a mouseclick away.

Of course we are not yet another social network. We are not intending to become yet

another instance of MySpace, FaceBook and what not; we are still a nationette seeking for citizens. Becoming a Talossan, particularly, a Talossan of the Republican variety, is not about acquiring yet another membership in yet another online club. But, see above, look at the example of the methods of German Railways: Sometimes standing relaxed in all weather may be the way to a howsoever thorny kind of a bigger success.

To put it more precisely: Would it really be such a dramatic loss, if amongst ten immigrants one or two people came in, who are not the perfect citizens that we were dreaming of? Even our strong selection didn't mean that every immigrant became perfectly integrated and happy in our little world, so why don't we try to stand a little bit more relaxed, although occasionally a hard rain might come down on us? A larger total of immigrants could possibly make up for this. Food for thought, I'd say, in times when too tight identity checks may be mistaken for yet another trap in the internet, some kind of stealthy data mining or worse.

An interview with the incoming Seneschál

V.: Congratulations, S:reu Xheráltsëfiglheu, you've just been appointed our new Seneschál. What are your plans for the upcoming legislative period?

X.: During the next Chamber I hope to conclude the business of geographical assignment reform. Following that I believe we should concentrate on issues central to the Republic. The issue of immigration is obviously one which we would like to solve along with tidying



This is not the Seneschál

up our website. Any more details will have to wait until after my address to Parliament.

V.: Apparently the geographical assignment, as well as the traditional immigration procedure, are very sensible issues that are causing ripples and waves just by touching them. How do you think you could get the traditionalists in these issues into your boat?

X.: I think the key point here is not to change the system too radically. Changes to certain procedures and systems are undeniably necessary in certain cases, but we must be mindful and careful in the changes

we make. As such, compromise is necessary to ensure change that works for everyone.

V.: As for forming a government, you promised to wrap the whole variety of portfolios into fewer ministries. Do you have enough candidates for your crew at hand, though?

X.: I believe I do. Of course, I haven't finalised my line-up yet, but I can assure you that they shall be announced within the next seven days.

V.: You mentioned that some negotiations with other micronations are in the making. How would we profit from more openness in this?

X.: Through negotiating with other micronations, our standing within the micronational sphere is bound to improve. To a certain degree, it will improve our web presence, and thus will increase the chances of interested prospectives stumbling upon us.

V.: S:reu Asmoûr, member of your Federalist Party, predicted that a reunification with the Kindom may come our way in this year. Is there something going on that our citizens have missed?

X.: I believe those were personal comments made by S:reu Asmoûr, and have no bearing on the official stance of the Party, nor the Government. That aside, Talossa has proven to be unpredictable in the past, so who's to say what is or isn't possible.

V.: This is a fine final statement to close this interview. I thank you for your time and patience.

X.: Thank you very much, S:reu Vercáriâ.



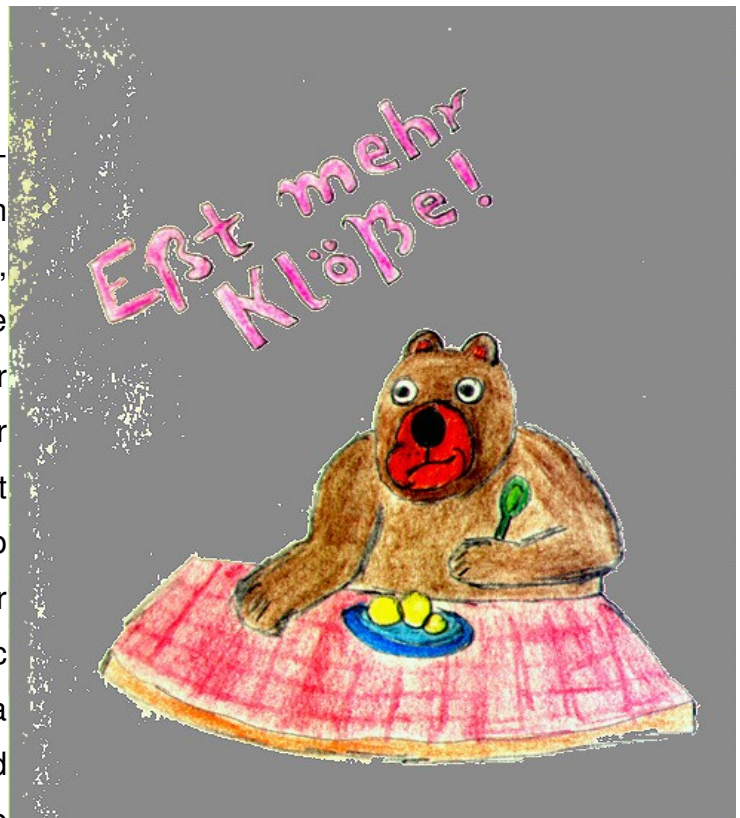
--- SENTINEL NEWSFLASH ---

Five pages are not an even number of pages, so certainly we have to compile some more news to keep this issue of the St. Brendan Sentinel from becoming something that is mathematically odd. Rumours it has that a revival of the (in)famous Movement of Republican Peculiarism (MRP) is on its way, so you definitely should stay tuned to witness a true sensation.

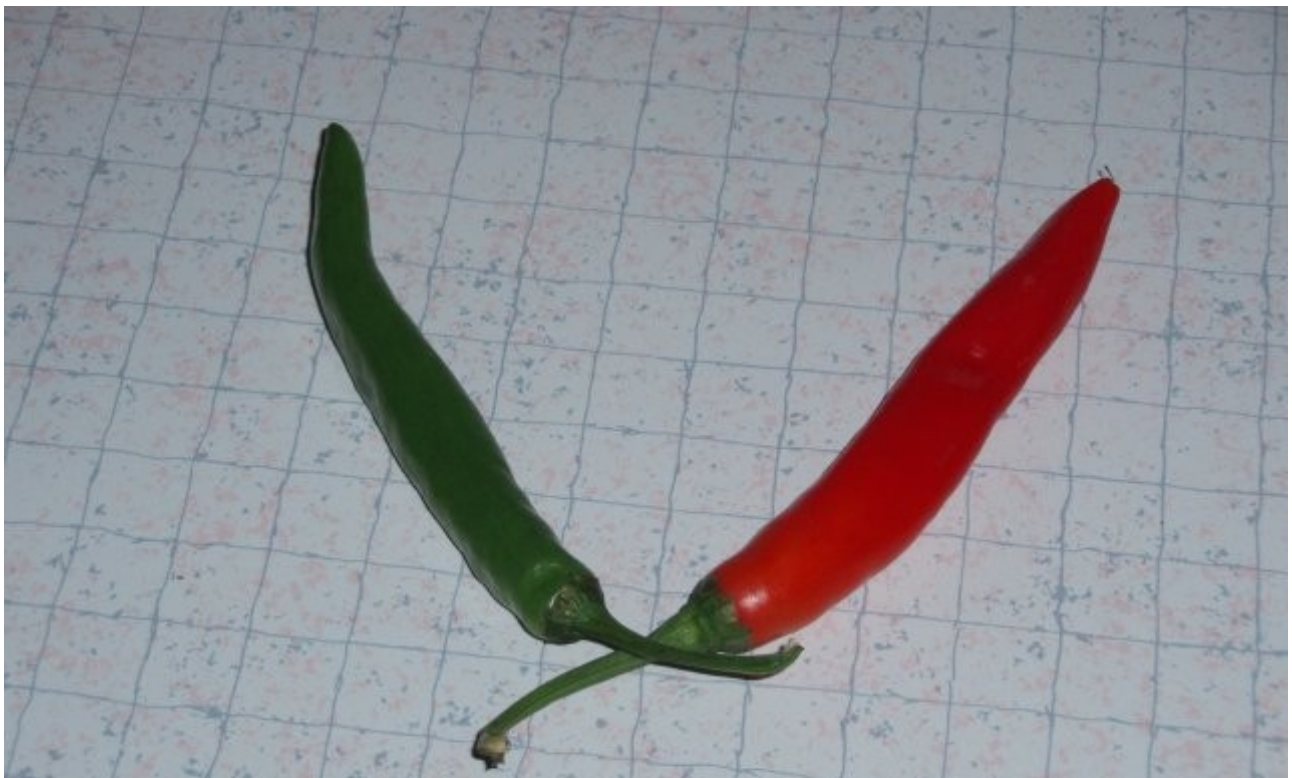
„Senator Manhut“, that is, Senator Txex D. Dál Màr, is about to pull a white rabbit or something like that out of his senatorial top hat: „I have an idea which might even help with immigration. I will begin exerimenting without a web server but having something to tweak and play with of our own might be a good thing. I hate to be cot but I don't want to spill too many beans and then not have it work at all.“

In our next issue, possibly:


Coverage of our correspondent's journey to the Republic of Héalie and an interview with the Héalian President, S:reu Choba Chokakao, and of course the most up-to-date stories from our own nationette! And maybe your contribution? Don't hesitate to contact us if you think that you've got a story to share. Or cartoons, or a review of your favourite movie, your favourite music CD, or... what about a flaming rant, a reply to something the you've read here and that you can't let just slip away uncommented? Write it now!



Advertisement: "Eat more dumplings!"



Join the Republic of Talossa. It's hot.



Don't hesitate, contact our hotline *now*.
Talk to our Immigration Office.



THE ST. BRENDAN SENTINEL

Cézembre, Republic of Talossa - established in 2008 - Editor: D. N. Vercária

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Only he couldn't care less:



The royal dog.

In this issue:

**A historical moment:
Talossa will unite**

**A surprising announcement:
King John and President Schivâ reveal unification talks -
A Joint Statement from His Majesty John I of the Kingdom of Talossa
and Miestrâ P-figlhâ Schivâ, President of the Talossan Republic**

Seven and a half years ago, the Kingdom of Talossa suffered the loss of a number of valuable citizens, who (provoked by the misbehaviour of the King of Talossa) left the Kingdom to form the Talossan Republic. Since that time, many newcomers to Talossa have joined the Republic and have lived and flourished there, together with the original "rebels", proudly identifying themselves as Talossans even though they were never citizens of the Kingdom. This division in our nation, however necessary it was, has always been a matter of regret and sorrow to patriotic Talossans in both groups.

On this 32nd anniversary of the establishment of the Kingdom of Talossa, we the undersigned, the King of Talossa and the President of the Talossan Republic, are very pleased to reveal publicly that last month, at the initiative of leading citizens of the Republic -- an initiative which was immediately and warmly welcomed by the leaders of the Kingdom --, informal talks began, with the aim of finding ways to facilitate the unification of the Talossan people in a single state by the admission of the Republic's citizenry to citizenship in the Kingdom. The talks, thanks to great goodwill on both sides, have gone very well. We are happy to announce that, pending the successful conclusion of these discussions, the Talossan Republic will be formally dissolved, and every one of its citizens who desires it welcomed into full citizenship in the Kingdom of Talossa. Some of the details have yet to be worked out, and some enabling legislation passed by the Ziu and by the General Assembly of the Republic, but both Governments are enthusiastically behind the plan. Our aim and intention is clear -- one Talossan people, and one Talossan state.

Each of the former Republicans will be admitted as a citizen of the Province of his or her own choice; but it is our mutual intention that those who desire to maintain something of their "rebel culture" within the Kingdom will organize an eighth Province, which will serve them as a sort of local center of their Talossan activity. Regardless of Provincial citizenship, they will all be full citizens of the Kingdom, living under the King and the Organic Law, and participating fully in all aspects of our joint national life -- cultural, political, and social.

This rapprochement is not to be regarded as some kind of conquest or surrender or Borg-like assimilation, but rather as the reception into the Kingdom of a group of good Talossans who have been, up until now, politically separated from the larger group of their co-nationalists. We fervently hope, and we firmly believe, that the "reunision" of the Kingdom and the Republic will usher in a new era in the history of our beloved nation, and allow us to reach unprecedented heights in our pursuit and enjoyment of our shared Talossanity.

Miestrâ P-figlhâ Schivâ és John R.

Unity seems to be nigh – how did it come to this?

I bet many Talossans who ran into the joint statement of President Schivâ and King John yesterday must have been rubbing their eyes in disbelief, because there haven't been many signs that indicated what was coming their way. Sure, there has been a proclamation of the King earlier this month, in which he offered apologies and promises to the „rebels“ who overthrew the government of Ben Madison and proclaimed a Talossan Republic, promises, according to which there will be no juridical prosecution of alledged criminal acts that were possibly committed in the wake of the „rebellion“ of June 2004. Talossans on both sides of the proverbial Vuode Wall welcomed this act of friendship, yet only active citizens of the Republic knew that this was but an opening act to something greater.



Old cartoon: D.N. Vercáriâ and Miestrâ Schivâ, wreaking serious havoc.

Not long ago D. N. Vercáriâ, editor of this tabloid and a well-known defender of Republican values and ideals, was overheard grumbling on and off that he will never bow his head to a monarch and monarchy, not elsewhere, and particularly not in Talossa. But now you can see him and his old friend and political rival, no-one lesser than the President of the Republic of Talossa, standing in one „picket line“ with Gödafrieu Valcádac'h, the one co-founder and citizen of the Republic, who always agitated and cajoled and campaigned and fought for the restoration of the Talossan unity that was lost in 2004. Isn't it strange irony, that Schivâ and Vercáriâ, two former Penguinians, in the imaginary world of the former Talossan King Robert I: kind of the assembled arch-evil itself, are trying to overcome the split of our nationette, that lasted for seven years and therefore far too long? The answer is: Not at all.

Honestly, the Republic has been in the doldrums for quite a while. Its very small population grew to a maximum of approximately 30 in 2007 (?), but since then the numbers were decreasing. They reached an all-time low of 15 at some time, and then stabilized at around 18 heads. Not bad for a micronation, one might say; but Talossa isn't simply yet another micronation, Talossa is a nationette with a distinct way of life. Beyond all of these definitions, a group of 18 people is simply a small group of people, with its self-sustainability quickly withering away if an even smaller subset of people in this group will have to do the same old jobs and routines over and over again. It doesn't have to be small group psychosis that will eventually kill a small group like this. The upcoming foreshadow of boredom was sufficient enough to scare those who seriously cared for the well-being of the Talossan Republic.

Being a citizen of the Republic has been a good, exhilarating, warm and fuzzy experience all the way, even in days of the political troubles that we've seen, says editor Vercáriâ, with a happy nostalgic glance at a glass of cold, golden beer that is kind of slowly leaking its content. It (the aforementioned good experience) planted the seed of Talossanity into our hearts, so to speak, if we haven't already been Talossans before June 2004. The Republic, that some of us are allegedly loving more than the whole big picture that we

assumedly never knew, may tread on for some more years, desperately waiting for immigrants that may or may never come.

And so it will be better to go for a „the more the merrier“ solution, and as the split of Talossa can only be overcome if at least one side is making the first move, we made the first move. Even staunch, grumpy, humourless, ursine democracy-nazis of the evil Penguinian-style variety began to admit, that only a step towards unity under the roof of the crown of the Lupuls might save us from the terminal virus that is called boredom.

Dear readers, Talossans, if you're calling this a surrender, then it is a surrender to fun and optimism. So let there be hope that it will not be rocket science to let the Republicans join a greater Talossa, for more fun and a long future.

The truly wonderful thing is to see our Royalist brethren standing there with open arms. On a very small scale that reminds me of the days when suddenly all these Trabants and Wartburgs and Moskvitchs with DDR (GDR) license plates were driving around in Frankfurt am Main, my West German home town, full of people who were happy to see new times, whatever scary moments they might bring.

Let's not gamble this opportunity away. Let there be one Talossa. Even if some of us, including me, will still think and utter some tough'n'rough thoughts about monarchy as a hilarious and obsolete form of government.



Germany in November 1989: a role model for Talossa?



THE ST. BRENDAN SENTINEL

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In this issue:

**„REUNISION“ - will our
Republic be conquered by
the Royal Zouaves?**

The Republican Sunset

To answer the question on our front page: No. No Zouaves will have to march to make us „surrender“. It is a strange situation. Compared to other micronations, the Republic of Talossa is doing remarkably well. It left the Talossan mainstream in June 2004 and still has a (semi-) active population of 18 citizens after an often wild, sometimes bumpy, seldom smooth and boring ride that is lasting for almost 8 years now. People from the Americas, Europe and Oceania claim to be citizens of the Republic, people of all ages between 16 and 60. So compared to many other similar micronations, their community is doing well and they could happily tread on for yet another while. They're still some sort of a mid-size power in the micronational pool, but apparently they can't wait to join the Kingdom of Talossa now, now, now.

The Kingdom of Talossa is an entity that may nominally have a population that is five times larger than the one of the Republic, but isn't necessarily five times more active. For those who haven't heard it yet, Talossa exists since its foundation in December 1979. It was one of the first micronations that discovered the internet as a medium for recruiting new citizens and staying in contact over the boundaries of continents and time zones. Ever since Talossa went online around 1996, it has seen a major secession, a lot of internal turmoil, the 2004 revolution with the foundation of our Talossan Republic, and eventually the abdication of Talossa's founder, King Ben. Kind of, the Kingdom of Talossa, which the Republic is wanting to join now, should probably be called the Second Kingdom, ruled by the Head of the House of Lupul, which followed the House of Rouergue after some considerations.

A strange situation, to repeat that again. The Republic is full of people who have sworn to never bow and surrender to the rule of a monarch again. They're abhorring those quaint aristocratic titles that reportedly weren't introduced before the enthronement of John Lupul (a.k.a. King John I), and they're frowning at the preserved traditional Talossan form of democracy that apparently never has heard about the secret ballot and other features and achievements of the Republic, such as a one-deputy-one-vote proportional representation in Parliament, yet.



Royal Zuaves, plotting in their secret den

Of course even the grumpiest of all the staunch Republicans would admit that this King John I is a jolly good fellow, well educated, mentally balanced and what not, and even in their wildest dreams they wouldn't want to hoist up aristocrats at the masts of lanterns, especially if these „aristocrats“ are as friendly, open-minded and hospitable as Baron Hooligan. But anyway, a return to a kingdom? A betrayal of all principles that made the Republic a stronghold against everything that went wrong under King Ben?

Nonetheless, it seems like most citizens of the Talossan Republic are eagerly willing to join this monarchist version of Talossa. The figurative Royal Zouaves will not have to march and shoot their rifles to bring their wayward rebellious countrymen of the Republican variety home. Starting unification talks with the „Royalist Brethren“ has been

an initiative of the Republican Talossans, hasn't it? In this issue of the **St. Brendan Sentinel** we will show that, aside of optimism, there are some concerns. After all, we're going to abolish a lifestyle, or, paraphrasing the words of Kane Gruber, we are about to give up the monument that we built to our ideals.

Diversity and vibrancy, apathy, or ... poison?

On the discussion forum of the Republic of Talossa, the **St. Brendan Sentinel** asked the following questions, hoping for many spontaneous replies: „Apparently Talossa is about to (re)unite - what is your opinion? What are your hopes? What, if so, are you afraid of? Is there any advice you'd like to give to those who are trying to pave the way to a (re)united Talossa?" Three Talossans cared to reply instantly. That ain't much, but coincidentally, the replies seem to shed a precise spotlight on the big picture of hopes and caveats. Here they are, uncommented.



A time to be brave!

C. Carlüs Xherálsëfiglheu, Republic of Talossa, Talossan citizen since February 2009, wrote: „Obviously as one of the Republican delegates for the Commission negotiating the 're-unison' of Talossa, my hope is that Talossa's unique position of being a nation of two states no longer applies. That is to say that Talossa's two states shall become one, and there shall no longer exist a divide splitting Talossans by classification of royalism and republicanism (though I expect this healthy distinction to persist in its unified status).

My personal objective is to see that nobody who joined Talossa as a "republican" will be disadvantaged from the merger of the two states. I believe that the Talossanity of citizens in that situation should not be denied as a result of incorrect pronouncements that one's Talossan citizenship would only prospectively

start once "re-unison" were to happen. If neither I nor my fellow delegates cannot secure this, I will deem the negotiations to have failed."

Eoin Ursüm, Kingdom of Talossa, Talossan citizen since March 2009: „I hope that the confluence of both communities (the so-called "reunision") will bring a diversity and vibrancy which has not been seen in Talossan politics for a very long while. Indeed, knowing that I would contributing to a single, united Talossan community would encourage me to become more active in the spheres of politics, journalism and literature. I have always believed that such things as Talossa thrive on diversity of opinion and conviction in beliefs. The process which is unfolding before our eyes will allow the nation to achieve things never before thought possible, and to blossom like a rare flower never before seen in all its glory. Zooks.

Vivadra Talossa! Azul la noua alvorada!"

Gödafrïeu Valcádac'h, one of the 11 Founders of the Republic, who always wanted to restore unity: „Within the last two years, there was a (so far) one-off podcast produced by

at least one Kingdom citizen (not John Woolley, Hooligan, or Litz, and not from Alexander D., any of the Colorado bunch, or anyone in the old Conservative Loyalist Party including QC or Dan L or JJ, not JP as well) in which the Republic/unification/whatever issue was discussed. During this conversation, one of the podcast hosts (who shall remain nameless) in the context of that discussion said of us in the Republic, 'Screw them.'

That jab has stayed with me, and I wonder how much of that poison still festers in some (but not all by a long shot) Kingdom citizens when they get around the water cooler when we republicans are out of earshot.

On a completely-different tangent.. once the euphoria and novelty of the Return to the Kingdom wear off, what will we do to keep the Greatest Enemy of Talossa from making a comeback? You know what I'm talking about: Apathy."

Re-unification may not work how we want to it to

an interjection by J. T. Tric'hardsëfiglheu

Re-unification may not work how we want to it to. Assuming the process goes smoothly, and we are all admitted as citizens of the Kingdom without any hiccups or arguments, I fear we may become caught in a trap of not reaching the full potential we have mastered in the Republic. We may not be seen as separate from the others (and let's hope not) but dreams of a change in the political processes of a united Talossa may fail to become a reality due to resistance from long standing Kingdom citizens to want to adapt their customs and traditions. Many of them feel very comfortable with how the system operates in its current form and will struggle to see how Republican customs such as the secret ballot and downgrading of monarchical powers.

I can't help but wonder whether our ambitions will be a painfully slow process and not come to fruition, and whether debates on democratic reforms could evolve into arguments and fragment the nation. However, we do share a common culture and there does appear to be a strong consensus on both sides [of the wall] not only in favour of a united Talossa, but wanting a united Talossa to work. If we can pull it off, this will be a new dawn where we see the pooling together of our resources, the building together of friendships and of course greater choice for people to choose what to do (if anything at all) to help keep the nation alive, which was something we lost somewhere along the way with the Republic. There seemed to be a constant notion that we must always be doing something to attract new citizens, while re-unification should, in theory (and assuming there is no fragmentation) help the nation grow and prosper into an even livelier community.

Remember that effectively, we're going to them, and they're not coming to us. We had the problems of our micro-nation that pointed us towards this proposed solution, not them. It was the Republic who took the first formal step of sending that crucial message that got us the hugely significant response that I bet made everyone breath a sigh of relief. I really hope that it can work, and I feel everyone else does too. But be wary, this is not going to be easy, It's a gamble that could pay off big time, but we must acknowledge the risks, and we could be about to lose more than we may imagine.

(J. T. Tric'hardsëfiglheu is a Talossan citizen since approximately a year. He is founder of the Democratic Socialist Party, editor of the Citaxhiën and has been elected a Deputy more than once. Most recently the General Assembly of all citizens, which temporarily replaced the representative Parliament, elected him the SoS of the Republic.)

Never again the Burning Times

One would wish that, despite all concerns and caveats, through the „Reunision“ Talossa will eventually find the inner stability, freedom and peace that those secessionists were dreaming of, who left Talossa in September 1997 to found the Free Commonwealth of Penguinia.



IN THE FIRST YEAR OF
OUR FREEDOM RESTORED
A.D. 1997

No. 4 of 1997

THE "NEVER AGAIN THE BURNING TIMES" ACT, 1997.

[Assented to 15 December 1997]

Be it enacted that:

1. It is a fundamental principle of the jurisprudence of the Free Commonwealth of Penguinia that all its citizens are guaranteed the utmost freedom of thought, word, and action, provided that exercise of these rights does not impinge upon the equal exercise of these rights by all other citizens; and that the policy of the nation shall be formulated by the free debate and consensus of all its citizens.
2. It is an offence against the Commonwealth for any citizen to attempt to impose their will or opinions upon another citizen by the unlawful use of, or threats of the unlawful use of, force, governmental power, or unsubstantiated allegations.
3. All rights and privileges extended by the laws of the Commonwealth and its Instrument of Government to citizens of the Commonwealth shall also be extended to prospective citizens, excepting the right to participate in the government of the Commonwealth.

The Protector assents.

E. P. GALLAGHER, Protector

The NATBT Bill is fascinating because it was me and Evan attempting to make illegal what Ben did to us - and as you can see, it's pretty much exactly what Ben later did to Grubi. (Also, "prospective citizens have rights too" is pretty important, and I hope that's in Kingdom law somewhere now.) (President Miestrâ Schivâ)

It's like trying to assimilate a full-size house into another house

An interview with Kane Gruber (K.G.), by Editor Vercáriâ (DNV)

DNV: As a co-founder of the Republic, and as our first President, what is going around in your head if you are hearing all this talk about a "reunision"?

K.G.: My immediate reaction is "oh no." I don't really like the idea, generally speaking. Why reunify with people I don't share an ideal with? Why subject myself to another monarch? Why go back? Why fix a problem that I don't feel exists, and, most importantly, why dismantle the creation we worked so hard for? However, I understand this is bigger than me, much bigger. And with some pertinent details I may change my mind. I think it would take a good, solid argument... and a few minor considerations for those of us who sacrificed so much to forge a Republic.

DNV: Would "it's not going back because the bygoners are the bygoners" suffice to ease your concerns?



„Maybe that lifetime lordship is what I need to be converted.“ Ex-President Kane Gruber - dressed for a 1st class funeral of the Republic?

K.G.: Not really. I'm apt to let more than a few things slide, but this is more than a mere issue of "I'm hurt". The Republic wasn't formed as a simple reaction to being mistreated by the King. It was built as a monument to our ideals. To ignore that would be a slap in the face to every effort we gave. And I'm not ready to do that. I'd require concessions. Something to compensate, or at least justify, the effort.

DNV: So King John is missing a lot of points by just offering excuses to you.

K.G.: I think so. I don't think it's out of malice or negligence; I just think he doesn't fully understand the depths of this issue. I think if he did, he'd step a little more lightly.

DNV: Would this include offering more space for the achievements of the Republic, instead of saying you just fight to climb that mole hill again?

K.G.: That's part of it, to be sure. But it's also a bit bigger than that. It's like trying to assimilate a full-size house into another house: it's not going to work. You'd have to find a way to incorporate every element of both houses while not compromising the accomplishments of either. How does one do that? It usually doesn't without one side or another compromising itself. Which, I'm afraid, it's expected to be the Republic. And I don't like that, naturally.

DNV: As the Republic made the first step towards the Kingdom, a little bit more than just mere enthusiasm should come echoing back, right?

K.G.: Absolutely. I need to see some serious effort on their behalf, not just "Welcome back! We no longer refer to you guys as the bad guys!" I mean, it's patronizing and insulting, to be honest.

DNV: I think we can call this a final statement, can we.

K.G.: No, not really. I think this issue is wide-open. it's just I'm reticent, and with good reason, I feel. Who knows what the future holds? Maybe that lifetime lordship is what I need to be converted.

DNV: I thank you for your time.

K.G.: And I thank you as well.



THE ST. BRENDAN SENTINEL

Cézembre, Republic of Talossa - established in 2008 - Editor: D. N. Vercária

February 2012 - No. 10 - 2.60 Itrì



In this issue:

Never again the „Vuode Wall“ -

a united Talossa leaps into view

Newsflash – A Declaration made by King John I

My fellow Talossans --

As you are all aware, on 1 December of last year, representatives from the Talossan Republic approached me and our nation's government with a confidential "modest proposal". This proposal inaugurated discussions to determine a basis for the "reunision" of the two groups of Talossans under the flag of the Kingdom. The government and I were immediately receptive and a plan was formed to create a six-member Commission that would discuss and decide any preliminary issues, discuss relevant details, and topple any preliminary hurdles.

As for what those details are, the "modest proposal" laid out three guiding principles, which the Kingdom immediately embraced.

Discussion on the first of these principles, a guarantee that all Republican Talossans be welcomed, centered on the issue of citizenship dates for citizens whose first date of entry into the Talossan culture differs (as is the case for some Republican Talossans) from the date of Kingdom citizenship. This detail was recently decided in favour of recognising this first-date for all persons of all Talossan heritage, and indeed, all Republican Talossans, when "reunision" occurs, will carry with them their acknowledged Talossan tenure.

The second principle, concerning the right of Republican Talossans to continue their peculiar culture, led to discussion around planning for the possibility that an eighth province might be established after "reunision", to provide a possible "territorial autonomy" for those Republican Talossans who wish to become citizens of such a new province. Since there are a number of different possibilities as to how such an eighth province could be formed, and since the creation of a new province is already possible under current law, the members of the Commission have decided that any action on this issue will be taken by the united citizens of Talossa after "reunision" has occurred. To this end, the Commission asks for the inauguration of an open discussion, so that all Talossans can present any ideas or proposals regarding these possibilities. While "reunision" need not wait, such discussions will perhaps form a basis for actions that will be taken at a provincial level at some point in our common future. To help best achieve this goal, the Kingdom has modified the Immigration law to allow that Republican Talossans be permitted to choose their province of citizenship, so that those who wish to congregate together to form a new province from an existing one might work together with citizens of any province that might be "split".

The final principle surrounded the rescinding of the indictments for treason against the leaders of the Revolution/Secession of 2004/xxv which were handed down by the previous Rouerguan regime, and the Kingdom was only too happy to take all possible steps to put the unfortunate incidents of those years decidedly in the past, quashing and condemning the acts of King Robert I, and making it clear in no uncertain terms that no charges regarding the events sparked by those acts are to be contemplated.

Thus, with these details resolved, and with agreement that the ground is now fully prepared, it is my happy privilege to come before all Talossans today to report the successful conclusion of the business of this historic Commission. All six members of the Commission lift their glasses to toast its success with you, as, with the details hammered out, we now proceed as a united people to the actual accomplishment of "reunision".

For the Kingdom, I must repeat to all Republican Talossans our most heartfelt welcome, and our inexpressible gratitude for the "modest proposal" on which the future of our proud Talossan culture now firmly rests.

— John R

Not afraid of the prospect of being the last President

Editor Vercária (DNV) in a conversation with President Schivâ (MS)

DNV: Morning ¹⁾, Ms. President.

MS: *I think I'm doing better than some other Presidents ²⁾ I've heard of...*

DNV: Certainly, but would you be prepared for a little interview?

MS: Right now? Certainly.

DNV: Okay. What comes to your mind if you're hearing / reading the words "Never again the Vuode Wall?"

MS: *I can't remember who initiated the term "Vuode Wall", but it was definitely a hangover from the days of Robert I and his cultish xenophobia. There was never any reason for it continuing to exist after August 2005, in that case. To some degree, I think we Republicans need to accept responsibility that we kept it in place ourselves, precisely because of our intransigent Republicanism.*



President Schivâ, delivering the inaugural address of her second term in June 2011

DNV: That is to say, the continued split after 2005 has to be blamed on the Republic?

MS: *Certainly not. Our own Republican intransigence was matched by legalistic quibbles from the new Royalist regime. No-one was innocent. Both sides wanted to be in control of a little Talossa which was how they liked it, rather than a bigger Talossa that they had to share with people they fundamentally disagreed with. There was perhaps a belief that "our side" would grow massively and dwarf the people with the "wrong Talossa", on both sides. It had to get to a position where both sides were approaching a crisis of participation and apathy before that changed.*

DNV: You're hinting that there may be a fundamental difference between the two Talossan cultures that developed away from each other... oops, that's what I said. Are there two different Talossan cultures?

MS: *Certainly, in the sense that identical twins raised in different countries will grow up speaking different languages. But in the words of a German Bundespräsident who didn't get arrested: "let what belongs together, grow together."*

DNV: That was former Chancellor Willy Brandt.

MS: Yeah, he didn't get arrested either.

DNV: Anyway, I'm not talking about a different grammar and spelling of el Glhetg... Some people say that the Kingdom of Talossa is much more conservative than the Republic. You are not afraid of this difference?

MS: Afraid? Certainly not. One of the big problems of the modern culture is

"narrowcasting" - the fact that on the Internet, it is possible to only ever read news and views which agree with your own. Talossa has always welcomed the full spectrum of political beliefs, from hard-left to hard-right to hard-centre.

DNV: That is, reunision may prevent political inbreeding.



Penguinean Coat of Arms

MS: *Adiens Glaça, the co-founder of Penguinea, used to joke that we had "both ends of the political spectrum - liberals AND social democrats". I don't think that's long-term healthy because it leads to the magnification of tiny differences.*

This leads back to the question of xenophobia I raised before. The more a nation or culture or organisation demonises its external opponents, the less it can tolerate internal diversity. A friendly nation or organisation is at peace with itself as well as outsiders.

DNV: So, better a return to the real difference within Talossa, the one between Derivatists and Peculiarists?

MS: *I worry a bit about that, since a party conflict of that nature had very bad outcomes in the Republic in 2007-8.*

However, perhaps that would be undercut by the OTHER real difference within Talossa – conservative / monarchists vs. democrats / republicans.

DNV: *As the Republic is going to join the Kingdom, you'll have to learn to accept a King at the helm of the nationette, right? Will this be an easy step for you?*

MS: *I can accept someone I didn't vote for a head of state. It doesn't mean I like it but I first joined Talossa in 1997 when a crazy man was King. Ián Tric'hardsëfiglheu is not crazy.*

As long as this is a constitutional monarchy where we are still allowed to fight within the OrgLaw for democratic / republican principles, then this is not a problem.

I have a problem with feudalistic titles, but the word "sir" does not choke on my lips.

DNV: *As you mentioned 1997, would you mind to tell us, in a few words, your Talossan biography from then to now?*

MS: *First applied for Talossan citizenship in April 1997. I was deceived by the phrase on the original website, "a freewheeling multiparty democracy". I met and befriended Adiens Glaça, who warned me that "Ben is mad", but I didn't realise how mad until I became the first ever applicant to be blocked from citizenship by the Uppermost Cort.*

Adiens and I then founded Penguinea, which fell apart in its third year basically because some of us were fed up with micronationalism and wanted to do something a bit more "grownup".

We then founded the Polyphony Community, which was so grown-up as to be mindnumbingly boring and pointless after a while. But that kept us busy until the Talossan Revolution of Calondâ Gün 2004.

I was privileged to be the first Seneschál of the Talossan Republic, and I am not afraid of the prospect of being its last President.

DNV: *Ah, that's anticipating a question I was going to ask you. So instead, you've been a member of the Commission that tried to pave a way to unity.*

MS: *Wow, it's amazing. It has been longer since the founding of our Republic, than it was between the founding of Penguinia and the founding of the Republic.*

DNV: *Maybe it's a silly question. Do you think we can trust "the other side"?*

MS: *I don't think Ián or Má la Mhá are deliberately lying to us, if that's what you're asking.*

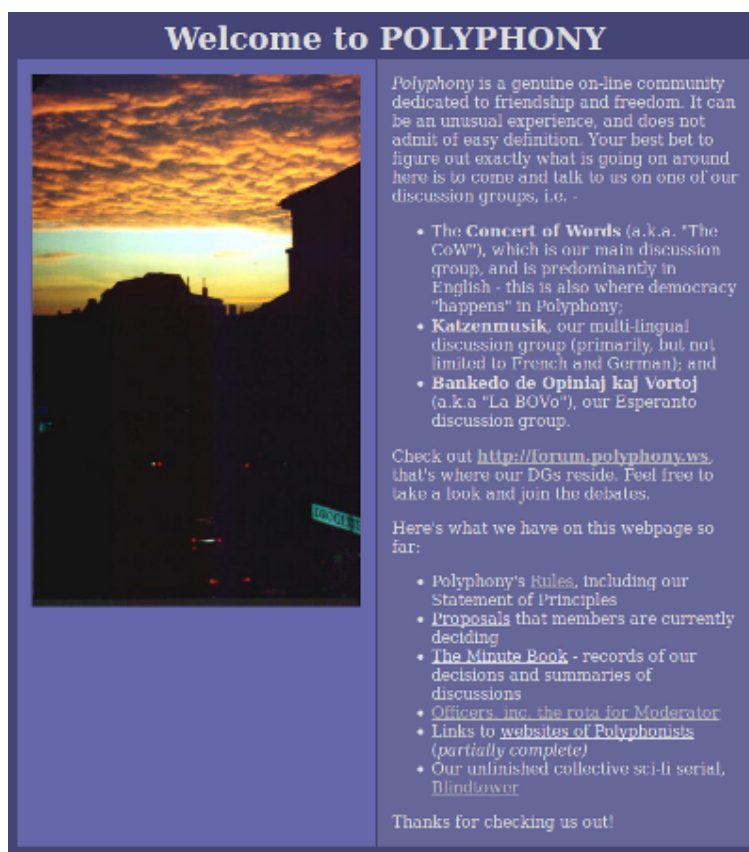
DNV: *It was a silly question. It's more like, will our longwinded history and heritage eventually fit into the alleged Talossan mainstream or some such.*

MS: *That depends on how successful we are at BECOMING*

(at least part of) a new Talossan mainstream. We are active and intelligent, hardly shy about fighting for our beliefs. How could anyone believe that such people would be swamped by the current monarchist population?

DNV: *Okay, I think we can leave it at this... I thank your for the interview.*

MS: *Grült méirçi.*



Homepage of The Polyphony Community: „so grown-up that it was mindnumbingly boring“

¹⁾ Friday evening, 22:48 in Frankfurt, Germany, thus Saturday morning in Auckland, New Zealand

²⁾ The German President Christian Wulff stood down on this day

Up the Ladder to the Moon

Much sooner than expected, the informal „Reunision“ talks between the two Talossan states have reached the next exciting stage. More or less, there was only one precondition that the Republicans wanted to see fulfilled before their return: Their genuine Talossanity had to be acknowledged by the Kingdom side.

In fact nobody ever denied their Talossanity. But the point was raised that there may be a fine legal distinction between Talossanity in general and Kingdom Citizenship in particular. The Republican side feared that thus they might become branded 2nd class Talossans ever since the proclamation of the Republic. Now, from the Kingdom of Talossa, Baron Hooligan sent the following message to the delegates of the Republic:

„Azul Fellow Commissioners [...]

On the citizenship dating issue, we Kingdom commissioners have agreed to go to the format 'Talossan since <date>' for everyone, and use the first citizenship date whether it was citizenship in the Kingdom or in the Republic.

On the eighth province issue, we now have legislation in place that will allow all Republicans to enter en masse, each free to choose their province of citizenship, and then you/we/all begin to work at a provincial level either to split a particular province (if that's the choice) or not. From our side-discussions, you'll find no opposition from current Kingdom citizens on any plan you choose. We as a full Commission have discussed the possibility of opening public discussions on the plan of action on this one (as I say, there are other ideas out there other than splitting M-M that may merit your consideration), and we're ready to take this topic to the general populace if you are.

Are there any other issues we need to settle before we can pull the trigger on this thing? What's the status on your end?"

On behalf of the Republican delegation, Senator Vercária gladly replied:

„Azul Everybody -

from the perspective of us Republican commissioners (and from the perspective of some other Republican citizens, too) everything that is needed for the "reunision" is in place. Other issues can be settled in the political arena of a united Talossa.

So how to proceed from here? We suggest that the result of the Commission's informal negotiations should now be taken to public debate in each part of Talossa; we leave it to the decision of our fellow Kingdom Commissioners whether they want to be the first to reveal said results, or whether they prefer to summon some kind of a joint press conference or some such.

(After said public debate in each part of Talossa, we'll see how the Commission's proposal has been received by the Talossan public, and based on this, we'll hopefully be able to take the next step, drafting / negotiating some kind of a "reunision contract". But probably I'm putting the cart before the horse now - let's see how the two points that we agreed on will be received by the public.)"

Reportedly, the Talossan King's reaction was a big smile, and sighs of relief were overheard in the private venues of the Republic. There have been concerns according to which the reunision talks could have been turning into a long-lasting, backbreaking procedure that would have left us Republican Talossans in limbo for a far-too-long while.

Now, in hindsight, it seems like poking the Kingdomite Government with President Schivâ's „Modest Proposal“ [for a re/unification] has been the right thing to do. For Talossa's future, it seems, the sky is the limit – or is it the Moon?

Still there's the option of failure. The results of the talk of the Commission are out in the open now, and even in the Republic, where the citizens have always been informed about the ongoing progress of said talk, it seems like they are realising just now what a leap it will be to overcome the split of our Talossan nationette by joining what used to be known as „the other side“.

And there, on „the other side“, citizens seem to be learning that even they, the would-be winners of the deal, will have to pay a price. Some of them more than others, as it seems like the proud province of Maritiimi-Maxhestic will have to accept that it has to grant provincial independence to Port Maxhestic, which is supposed to become the new home of the returning republican Talossans.

Kingdom about to decide on a „General Pardon“ ³⁾ for Revolutionaries

43RZ12: The Act of Oblivion

WHEREAS there seems to exist some doubt (in spite of the Statutes of Limitations) as to whether, should some participant in the so-called rebellion of 2004 become a Talossan citizen, he could be charged in the Talossan courts for things that happened back then, and

WHEREAS we want to remove any such doubt, since all that stuff should be forgiven and (except as a historical and academic exercise) forgotten, and

WHEREAS we want to promote friendship, cooperation, and goodwill as much as possible with members of the Talossan Republic, and

WHEREAS it's just the Right Thing to Do,

THEREFORE the Ziu hereby enacts that

1. No person shall be made to answer, or charged, or convicted, or punished for any action or failure to act, which action or failure took place during or before the year 2008 and was part of, or stemmed from, or had anything essentially to do with the "rebellion" of 2004 or the formation of the Talossan Republic.

2. Any person attempting to compel anyone to answer legally for such action or failure to act will call down on his own head the Righteous Indignation of the Talossan people.

³⁾ For the sake of a catchy headline we're calling it a „general pardon“; but as King John once explained, you can't pardon a person that has never been accused, let alone convicted of having committed a crime.

A new set of people to associate with will be enjoyable

An interview with Ceváglh Scurznicol (CS), by a sleepy Editor (DNV)



Ceváglh Scurznicol's avatar,
looking at the Kingdom of Talossa

DNV: *May I ask you for a quick interview?*

CS: *For the Talossan papers?*

DNV: *Yep, **ST. BRENDAN SENTINEL** here.*

CS: *Sure.*

DNV: *Okay, I'd like to hear a quick statement on the oncoming "reunision" of the two Talossas.*

CS: *I'm happy about it. I think the citizens of the Republic will have more fun being part of a larger social group.*

DNV: *As you have been a bit inactive during the most recent years, would you expect that the "reunision" is going to wake this sleeper up?*

CS: *It depends what you mean by waking up. Maybe that's all I want out of Talossa, the social aspect!*

DNV: *I just meant a reason for participation.*

CS: *Oh, I see. Yes.*

DNV: *I'm feeling a bit sleepy myself, close to midnight. Is there any more you'd like to say?*

CS: *Yes, maybe, but I have to think it out first, so you'd better ask me when you aren't sleepy. I think we may be revitalized by the reunion, at least for a while. I suspect that the kind of people who would be interested in Talossa would be more charmed by the idea of participating in a little kingdom rather than a little republic. Certainly for Americans and even most Europeans kingdoms are exotic now.*

DNV: *So you'd say that a Kingdom will attract more citizens than a Republic?*

CS: *I get the impression that it already has over the years. Also I'm hoping reunision will bring Tomás back, as well as other old Talossans. They won't have to choose sides between the Kingdom and the Republic. Tomás Gariçeir.*

DNV: *So the really good thing lies beyond marketing, politicking, what ever... Reunision is a value in itself?*

CS: *Yes. A new set of people to associate with will be enjoyable, even if it's an old set of people. And that applies for either side.*

DNV: *I thank you for this interview.*

CS: *You're welcome. I can't remember what you say in German as a reply to "Danke".*

Talossan Worlds in Collision



Map of the Republic of Talossa,
aka „South Talossa“

Take a look at the map on the left side: This is the Talossan world seen from our, the traditional Republican perspective. Located in the Greater Talossan Area, there are two of our provinces: Florençiâ and the Great Southern Province.

North of these provinces, there's the proverbial „Vuode Wall“, the line of demarcation that is dividing Talossa since Calondâ Gün, 2004, and beyond lies either the evil North Talossan kingdom with its dedication to province and other geographical names that are referring to dictatorships, dictators and other obsessions of old King Ben - or the Cooper Territory, an empty wilderness that is inspiring our writers, if you prefer to see it this way.

I bet many of our North Talossan readers are scratching their heads now; they're impatiently shuffling their feet, because this one map thing on the left is looking all fictional and absurd to them, and they're wanting us South Talossans to understand, that in the real life that is always trumping fiction, Talossa is looking like the one red geographical entity on the map on the right side.

Yes, my brave fellow South Talossans, you may crack up with maniacal laughter now, you may want to shoot your rifles, stomp your feet etc.: From the perspective of our northern brethren, we didn't exist, and still we don't exist as a territorial entity – yet. That's correct, we virtually never existed. After Calondâ Gün 2004, we kind of must have been on leave, in another universe or something, and now we're about to return to Talossa. Well, sarcasm and irony aside, the Reunision Commission negotiated that one of the provinces on that map might become split, in favour of the creation of an eighth province as a new home for us.



Map of the Kingdom of Talossa:
hocus-pocus, Republic begone!

And that's where the Talossan worlds are colliding for real: While we, the South Talossans, are about to sacrifice our entire independence, our constitutional order, our monarchy-free paradise, our everything that made up our Republic and our republican pride, all in the name of the restoration of the unity of Talossa, apparently some people on the other other side are finding it hard to make „all the concessions, and what we've spent years developing will just be swamped. We'd never stand in the way of Talossan unity, but still, it's sad.“ They're afraid that *they* are going to be knocked over their heads in the wake of the peace process. Others are trying to help by offering land in another province, but that's not the favourite option of the South. We'll see where all of this will lead us to, but anyway the new province will be the eighth, in el Glhetg: *Provinçú vuitlaset*. So on the tricky pronunciation of this, S:reu Scurznicol says:

*„I remember when it was spelled **wûîplâîşëð**, and, oh, the rants that would come from the Throne Room if you dared to leave off one itty-bitty accent...“*

Oh yes, those were the days, and now we're more than just one step ahead.



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Valcádac'h dethrones King John 1:0

At the Micromonarchic Olympics in Puerto Clarito, a nano-nation that resides on the eastern part of the edge of a knife that lies near the mouth of the river Casiquiare, Gōdafrieu Valcádac'h (Republic of Talossa) ascended a throne short before his rival King John I (Kingdom of Talossa) did so, too. „I think it was the advantage of the early bird,” said the winner, „I ascended the throne at sunrise.” Amateur geographers and observers like to point out that Valcádac'h might be living on a longitude that lies a tick east of John I's palace, hence the advantage that the winner mentioned. No comment has been heard from the latter, reportedly a professional monarch. Will he call for a referee's decision?

Media Mogul Murdoch buys QI

„No, he doesn't,” says Editor Schivâ, „but he could.” And she adds with a wink and a smile: „If he actually had enough money to buy it.”

Kane dal Navâ is coming out

Yes, he's coming out, and he's not coming out of a closet, he's stepping out of a cage. „I'm a tiger,” he rawrs, and he certainly means what he's rawring. „He'll learn to live with it,” grumbles the Sentinel's editor Vercáriâ, who apparently learned to live with a similar furry condition quite a while ago. Now experts wonder who will be coming out next, and, possibly a lot more interesting, as what.

This rumour is simply wrong

Spokesmen and -women of President Anglatzarâ like to declare, that the President did not buy a factory, in which in a secret lab a certain Scandinavian kind of fermented herring is supposed to be produced. In fact, so the spokespersons, our President bought a shut-down lavender distillery, in which he wants to distill whisky and science fiction for the Talossan Whisky and Science Fiction Society.

ZRT annexes North Talossa

„Yes, we will,” says the ZRT's own chief magician Daviu Rôibeardét, „by means of the Schivâ doctrine, the amended Constitution and a heavy dose of wishful thinking. Regipäts Talossán, begone!” The crowd is cheering in amazement. Or is it amusement? More next, under the dome of the big tent of the *Zirkus der Republik Talossa*.

In other news

During last weekend, our soon-to-be ex-Cultural Minister Ián Txaghl has constructed a tiny little new grammatical case in his linguistic workshop. Yet he doesn't know what to use it for, but he swears it's a promising case. Says Txec Dal Már: „That's exciting news!”

Fanfare! This is the tenth issue of the Sentinel.



Editor Vercáriâ: You better don't ask him for a pay-rise whenever he's „in the mood“

Approximately four years ago, on March 28, 2008, the **ST. BRENDAN SENTINEL**'s first issue was published, and no-one was really impressed, not even our editor himself. Back then, the Sentinel was but a shabby, taciturn tabloid that covered one single A4-size page. In fact it appeared to be set to become some kind of an ephemeral joke, as the „April Fool's Edition“ seemed to indicate one week later on. And then, after one more half-assed, two-paged tabloidish issue the Sentinel fell flat on its face and didn't reappear before La Ziuâ dal Naziun, 2010. The plan of creating a weekly tabloid had failed.

What can we say? Proudly put, the Sentinel then tried to fill the gap that had been left by the disappearance of *Qator Itrîns*, and while - of course - no editor of any micronational e-zine will ever be able to walk in the shoes of

QI's editor Miestrâ Schivâ (naturally!), the Sentinel became at least some kind of a substitute heir to this past glory. Alas, after a few more issues, there was not much left to report on, which partly is an euphemism for the sloth nature of editor Vercáriâ meeting the circumstances of an increasingly exhausted Republic of Talossa. A Sentinel No. 7 was in the making and then left unfinished.

Dear Readers, you all know what happened next. In December 2011, President Schivâ sent her famous „Modest Proposal for a Talossan Reunion“ to the Government of the Kingdom of Talossa, and this effectively came across as if someone had dropped a cherry or some such into an anthill. Suddenly both Talossas were bursting with activity and optimism, and therefore creating news that were calling for a living Talossan press.

And *here we are now*, *entertain us*, so that we will be able to entertain you, dear Readers, with many more issues of this (former) tabloid, which is honestly trying to become a serious, grown-up, yet entertaining



Spotted in Frankfurt: Talossa's heraldic animal, the squirrel

Talossan e-zine for our entire, soon-to-be united nationette. Let's all follow the example of Talossa's heraldic animal, the squirrel: Let's keep moving.



In search of the united Talossa

The Aftermath

Nothing is as dead as yesterday's newspaper, and therefore we, the somewhat imaginary, yet small team of the **ST BRENDAN SENTINEL**, will launch this rocket now. With the declaration that King John I (or *Citaxhiên Lupul*, as hardcore Republicans like our Editor might prefer to say) made today, we're one step closer to the day that will see a united Talossa. And this is a good thing, beyond all political preferences. The more, the merrier: As President Schivâ said in her interview, smallcasting is the way that is leading to the end of all communication in no time. And in this world, not only in Talossa, we need more people who care to talk to each other, across all borders. So here's a hug for the King.